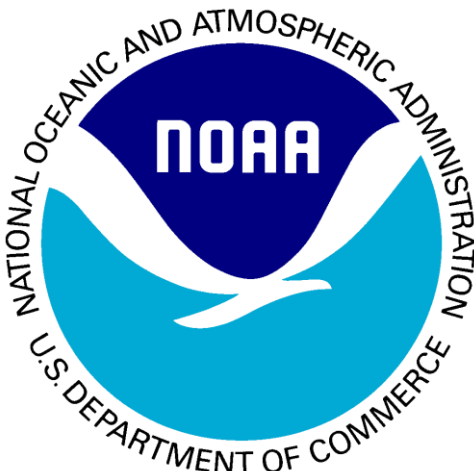




# **2014 Lower Michigan Fire Weather Area Operating Plan**



## **Introduction**

This Fire Weather Annual Operating Plan (FWAOP) was developed to enhance the communication and organization between members of The National Weather Service along with federal and state user agencies, for the 2014 fire season. This AOP was written from information compiled in The National Weather Service Directive 10-4, and the 2013 FWAOP.

## **Appendices**

- Internet Spot Forecast request procedures (Appendix A )
- Example of products issued (Appendix B)
- Fire Weather Indices (Appendix C)
- Lower Michigan Fire Weather Zone Groupings (Appendix D)
- Experimental Smoke Modeling Plumes (Appendix E)

## **Service Area and Organization**

### **Service Areas**

The National Weather Service Office in Gaylord will prepare Fire Weather Forecasts, Point (NFDRS) Forecasts, Spot forecasts, and Red Flag event support for the following fire control/land management agencies in Lower Michigan:

- Huron-Manistee National Forest in Northern Lower Michigan along and north of M-55
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Northern Lower Michigan
- State forest lands along and north of M-55 in Northern Lower Michigan

National Weather Service Office in Grand Rapids will prepare Fire Planning Weather Forecasts, Point (NFDRS) Forecasts, Spot forecasts, and Red Flag event support for the following fire control/land management agencies in Lower Michigan:

- Manistee National Forest in West-Central Lower Michigan south of M-55
- State forest lands south of M-55 in Southwest Lower Michigan

National Weather Service Office in White Lake Township, MI will provide Fire Weather Planning Forecasts, Red Flag event support and Spot Fire Weather Forecasts in Lower Michigan for the following fire control/land management agencies:

- Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Lower Michigan
- State and local land management agencies across Southeast Michigan

National Weather Service Office in Northern Indiana will provide Fire Weather Planning Forecasts and Spot Fire Weather Forecasts for the following fire control/land management agency in Michigan:

- State and local land management agencies in Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch and Hillsdale counties

## **Backup**

In events in which the National Weather Office Gaylord cannot provide routine services, as laid out in this FWAOP, then the National Weather Service Office Marquette will assume responsibility for fire weather products and services needed over Northern Lower Michigan. In the event the National Weather Service Office Marquette cannot provide routine services as laid out in their FWAOP, then the National Weather Service Office Gaylord will assume responsibility for all fire weather products and services needed over Upper Michigan.

The National Weather Service Office in Marquette prepares the fire weather products for the following fire control/land management agencies in Upper Michigan.

- Ottawa National Forest in Upper Michigan
- Hiawatha National Forest in Upper Michigan
- Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior
- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Upper Michigan
- Seney Wildlife Refuge in Upper Michigan

Similarly, the National Weather Service in White Lake will be the back up for the Grand Rapids office for routine fire weather services. In turn, Grand Rapids will back up the White Lake office for routine fire weather services.

The National Weather Service in Indianapolis will serve as back up for the National Weather Service in Northern Indiana.

## **National Weather Service contacts**

### **WFO Detroit/Pontiac:**

Administration: (248)625-4249  
FAX: (248)625-4834

### **Contacts:**

Fire Weather Program Leader: Heather Orow  
Meteorologist In Charge: Dick Wagenmaker  
Warn. Coordination Meteorologist: Rich Pollman  
Science Operations Officer: Greg Mann

[heather.owrow@noaa.gov](mailto:heather.owrow@noaa.gov)  
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[greg.mann@noaa.gov](mailto:greg.mann@noaa.gov)

**Mailing Address: NWS office, NOAA  
Fire Weather Program  
9200 White Lake Rd  
White Lake Township, MI 48386**

**WFO Gaylord:**

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FAX: (989)731-0682

**Contacts:**

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Meteorologist in Charge: Bruce Smith

Warn. Coordination Meteorologist: Jim Keysor

Science Operations Officer: Justin Arnott

[david.lawrence@noaa.gov](mailto:david.lawrence@noaa.gov)

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**Mailing Address: NWS Office, NOAA  
Fire Weather Program  
8800 Passenheim Road  
Gaylord, MI 49735-9454**

**WFO Grand Rapids:**

Administration: (616) 949-0643

FAX: (616) 949-1708

**Contacts:**

Fire Weather Program Leader: Nathan Jeruzal

Meteorologist in Charge: Daniel Cobb

Warn. Coordination Meteorologist: Jim Maczko

Science and Operations Officer: TJ Turnage

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**Mailing Address: NWS Office, NOAA  
Fire Weather Program  
4899 South Complex Dr. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-4034**

**WFO Northern Indiana:**

Administration: (574)834-1104

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**Contacts:**

Fire Weather Program Leader: Lonnie Fisher

Meteorologist in Charge: Mark Frazier

Warn. Coordination Meteorologist: Michael Lewis

Science Operations Officer: Jeffrey Logsdon

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**Mailing Address: NWS Office, NOAA  
Fire Weather Program  
7506 East 850 North  
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FAX: (906)475-6305

**Contacts:**

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Asst. Fire Weather Program Leader: Jason Alumbaugh

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Meteorologist in Charge: Robin J Turner

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Warn. Coordination Meteorologist: Matt Zika

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Science Operations Officer: Michael Dutter

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**Mailing Address: NWS Office, NOAA  
Fire Weather Program  
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Negaunee, MI 49866-9526**

**Land Management Agency Contacts in Lower Michigan****Eastern Area Coordination Center (EACC)****Main Office - Milwaukee**

Main Phone: (414)944-3811

Office Fax: (414)944-3838

**Mailing Address:  
626 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Suite 500  
Milwaukee, WI 53202**

**EACC Fire Weather Program Manager – Stephen Marien**[Stephen.Marien@nps.gov](mailto:Stephen.Marien@nps.gov)

Main Phone: (651)293-8446

Office Fax: (651)290-3815

**Mailing Address:  
111 East Kellogg Blvd. Suite 105  
St. Paul, MN 55101**

**U.S. Forest Service****Huron-Manistee National Forest**

Dispatch (Day): (231)775-5023 X8775

[mihmfc@fs.fed.us](mailto:mihmfc@fs.fed.us)**Supervisor's Office (Cadillac)**

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Vacant (231)775-5023 X8752

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**Mailing Address:**  
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**West Zone (Baldwin)**

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**National Park Service**

**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**

Kevin Skerl– Chief of Natural Resources (231)326-4750

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Dispatch

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Fax

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**Empire, MI 49630**

**Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore**

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife**

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**Gladstone, MI 49837**

**Shiawassee Wildlife Refuge**

Gary Lindsay

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**Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge**

Steve Dushane

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**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

Will Wiggins

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[wwiggins@up.net](mailto:wwiggins@up.net)

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**Mailing Address:**  
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**Baraga, MI 49908**

**Michigan Dept of Natural Resources**

Roscommon - Phone (989)275-5151 or (989)275-5019

Roscommon - FAX (989)275-5167

Fire Duty officers and extensions:

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Jim Fisher (989)275-5151 Ext. 2052 [fisherj@michigan.gov](mailto:fisherj@michigan.gov)

Lee Osterland (989)275-5151 Ext. 2042 [osterlandl@michigan.gov](mailto:osterlandl@michigan.gov)

Rita Defibaugh (989) 275-5151 Ext. 2920 [defibaughr@michigan.gov](mailto:defibaughr@michigan.gov)

**Mailing Address:**  
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**Roscommon, MI 48653**

**Land Management Agency Contacts in Upper Michigan**

**U.S. Forest Service**

**Ottawa National Forest:**

IC Dispatch (906)358-0531 ext. 19

FMO (Vacant)

Dispatcher – Brian Sabin (906)358-4067 [bsabin@fs.fed.us](mailto:bsabin@fs.fed.us)

FAX (906)358-4069

**Mailing Address:**  
**E 32979 US Hwy 2 East**  
**Watersmeet, MI 49969**

**Hiawatha National Forest:**

Main Office (906)428-5800

Dispatcher – Vacant (906)428-5891

FMO– Steve Nurse (906)428-5822

Fax (906)428-9030

[snurse@fs.fed.us](mailto:snurse@fs.fed.us)

**Mailing Address:**  
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**Gladstone, MI 49837**

**National Park Service**

**Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore**

Dispatch (906)428-5891

Matt Davis – Chief Ranger (906)387-2607 X 203

[matthew\\_davis@nps.gov](mailto:matthew_davis@nps.gov)

**Mailing Address:**  
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Marshall Plumer - East District Ranger (906)487-7174

[Richard\\_Moore@nps.gov](mailto:Richard_Moore@nps.gov)  
[Marshall\\_Plumer@nps.gov](mailto:Marshall_Plumer@nps.gov)

#### **Mailing Address:**

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### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Seney Wildlife Refuge**

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Gary Lindsay (906)586-9851  
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[gary\\_lindsay@fws.gov](mailto:gary_lindsay@fws.gov)

#### **Mailing Address:**

**1674 Refuge Entrance Road  
Seney, MN 49883**

### **Michigan Dept of Natural Resources**

#### **Marquette Dispatch**

Marquette Phone – (906)249-1497  
Acting Duty Officer - (906)249-9222

Celeste Chingwa – Protection Officer (906)249-2466  
Bruce Avery – Fire Specialist (906)249-3502  
Keith Murphy – Fire Specialist

[chingwac@michigan.gov](mailto:chingwac@michigan.gov)  
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#### **Mailing Address:**

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Marquette, MI 49855**

### **Routine Services provided by the National Weather Service**

Format of Fire Planning Weather Forecasts and times of issuance are coordinated with the customers at the beginning of each season. The format of the fire weather products will comply with standards set forth in NWS Instruction 10-401. The format is standardized, in an effort to better serve transient fire fighters. The fire fighters can look at any National Weather Service Fire Weather Forecasts, and be familiar with the format so that critical weather information can be easily obtained.

The National Fire Danger Rating System (Point) forecasts will be issued to determine fire danger on an as needed basis. These are initiated by the reception of 1300 (local time) observation at the designated points.

Special forecasts, such as Spot Forecasts, will be issued as needed for on-going fires, prescribed burns, spraying or other special projects of the fire protection agencies.



A red flag program will be maintained throughout the fire season, to support fire agencies in wildfire prevention and suppression tactics.

Close liaison between the National Weather Service and the fire control agencies will be maintained to insure a smooth exchange of essential information.

**Below are the fire weather products issued by Weather Forecast Office Gaylord:**

- ARBFWFAPX- Routine Fire Weather Forecast
- ARBFWMAPX- NFDRS (point) forecasts (Mio, Bear, Wellston, and Silver Creek)
- ARBFW SAPX- Spot Forecasts
- ARBRFWAPX- Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning

**Below are the fire weather products issued by Weather Forecast Office Grand Rapids:**

- ARBFWFGRR- Routine Fire Weather Forecast
- ARBFWMGRR- NFDRS (point) forecasts (Baldwin)
- ARBFWSGRR- Spot Forecasts
- ARBRFWGRR- Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning

**Below are the fire weather products issued by Weather Forecast Office White Lake:**

- ARBFWFDTX- Routine Fire Weather Forecast
- ARBFWSDTX- Spot Forecasts
- ARBRFWDTX- Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning

**Below are the fire weather products issued by Weather Forecast Office Northern Indiana:**

- INDFWFIWX- Routine Fire Weather Forecast
- INDFWSIWX- Spot Forecasts
- INDRFWIWX- Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning

More specific information on the above products is provided below.

**Routine Fire Weather Forecast**

This forecast has two scheduled issuances, between 400 am & 700 am in the morning, and between 300 pm and 400 pm in the afternoon. The morning forecast will contain three periods and an extended forecast, while the afternoon forecast will contain four periods and an extended forecast. A standard fire zone grouping has been established to better facilitate information for areas that may experience similar conditions. Adjustment of these groupings can be performed on an as needed basis to address representative fuel conditions in a particular area after coordination with affected state and federal officials. These groupings will be reviewed at least annually. A graphic of the zone grouping can be found in Appendix D.

The forecasts will contain the following elements:

- **Headline** - The headline should capture the most important aspect of the forecast, or a trend. If a Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch is in effect, then this becomes the headline.
- **Discussion** – This is a short paragraph outlining the synoptic features affecting the Great Lakes region during the next 24 to 36 hours. An outlook also may be produced to highlight potential dangerous fire weather conditions expected in the next few days.
- **Other forecast elements** will include: cloud cover, chance and type of precipitation, precipitation amount, max and min temperatures and its trend, max and min relative humidity and its trend, 20-foot winds in MPH, mixing height in 1000's of feet, and transport winds in knots.
- **Haines Index** - This is a stability index with reportable values that range from 2 to 6. You can calculate the Haines Index by using model soundings.
- **Ventilation Index (VI)** - A smoke management tool used to measure the stability of the atmosphere, in order to indicate how effectively it will disperse fire generated pollutants.
- The extended forecast will be appended to the end of the tabular part of the product and will include the winds through day 7.

This forecast will be updated whenever the following conditions are warranted.

- A Fire Weather Watch is issued, cancelled or expired
- A Red Flag Warning is issued, cancelled or expired
- Current trends do not support the valid forecast

**Methods of receiving and accessing routine Fire Planning Weather Forecasts, is as follows:**

- Agencies can routinely access the forecast via the internet at [weather.gov/gaylord](http://weather.gov/gaylord), [weather.gov/grandrapids](http://weather.gov/grandrapids), [weather.gov/detroit](http://weather.gov/detroit), [weather.gov/northernindiana](http://weather.gov/northernindiana) or through WIMS (Weather Information and Management System).
- If the above options are not available, then agencies are encouraged to call the respective National Weather Service Office directly.

### **NFDRS (point) Forecast**

The Point Forecast is issued for a specific point within the fire weather area of responsibility (see stations below) and is valid for a twenty-four (24) hour period (through 100 pm the following day). For example, if the NPS wants a Point Forecast for Wednesday at "The Bear", they will send the 100 pm weather conditions from the site on Tuesday to serve as a reference for the forecast. The Point Forecast for The Bear, would be valid through 100 pm the next day (in this case it would be a Point Forecast for Wednesday at 100 pm at BEAR).

### **Point forecast Stations:**

<u>Station</u>	<u>ID #</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>LAT</u>	<u>LON</u>
Office: GRR					
Baldwin	203802	Lake	USFS	43.9	85.8

Office: **APX**

Mio	202902	Oscoda	USFS	44.4	84.1
Bear	202010	Leelanau	NPS	44.5	86.0
Wellston	203101	Manistee	USFS	44.2	85.9
Silver Creek	203601	Iosco	USFS	44.4	83.6

The format for NFDRS forecast is found in NWS Instruction 10-401.

### **Spot Forecasts**

This forecast is prepared for a single location for a very distinct period of time, usually 6 to 12 hours. The forecast is usually requested by federal and state agencies during wildfires or prescribed burns.

The forecast elements will usually consist of the highest or lowest temperature during the period, the highest or lowest relative humidity, wind direction and speed, chances of precipitation and duration.

Spot Forecast requests can come into the office by several means, the internet, by fax, or by phone. The preferred method for requesting or receiving Spot Forecasts will be via the internet. If internet usage is not possible for requesting or receiving Spot Forecasts, then requesting agencies should call the respective NWS office to request the forecast. Instructions for submitting a Spot Forecast request by user agencies, and instructions for completing the Spot Forecast by National Weather Service employees via the internet, are found in Appendix B.

When a request for a Spot Forecast is made by phone, National Weather Service employees should use the Spot Forecast form to help prepare the forecast. Upon receiving a call for a Spot Forecast, the NWS forecaster should ask for the location lat/lon, current observation including temperatures, relative humidity, wind direction and speed location. Elevation, aspect, fuel type, and requesting official and contact phone number should also be given for the site before beginning the forecast process.

Whether the Spot Forecast request is made by phone or the internet, NWS employees will complete the request utilizing the internet process (Appendix B). When the forecast is submitted it will produce a product in AWIPS, which is printed automatically and stored locally. This form can be used for faxing.

### **Experimental Model Smoke Plumes**

Land management agencies that have a wildfire of 100 acres or greater, or are conducting a prescribed burn of 100 acres or greater, may request that the local National Weather Service Office run the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory dispersion model, HYSPLIT, to model smoke dispersion. This model is a combination of the U.S. Forest Service's Blue Sky Model and meteorological models used by NWS Forecasters. This data is output in a graphical form and is considered experimental since it is relatively new, and only limited testing has been conducted thus far. This data can be used in addition to a typical spot forecast that is used for Prescribed Burns and Wildfires. More information on the procedures for requesting this and how to interpret the data can

be found in Appendix E at the end of this AOP.

### **Weekly Fire Weather Briefings**

During the months of April and May, a weekly weather briefing will be conducted by a NWS Meteorologist from one of the four NWS offices that service the land management agencies in Lower Michigan. Additional briefings may be requested by the land management agencies outside of this time period. The purpose of these briefings will be to provide an outlook of weather to assist the agencies in the planning of resources out through seven days during the active portion of the fire season. The day and time of these briefings will be determined by coordination between the NWS offices and all of the land management agencies. The webinars should include the use of the web based “Join.Me” software, and a conference call. The briefing will be then emailed out to the contacts on the webinar list.

Webinar information:

Web Page for Briefing: <https://join.me/nws-grandrapids>

Dial In: 1-866-231-8384 Passcode: 4482608820

In addition to the weekly briefing listed above, a briefing concerning an expected Red Flag event will be conducted by the NWS offices when requested by the land management agencies. This request will likely come during the weekly fire weather briefing. Please see more details on the Red Flag webinar under the Watch/Warning Events section.

## **Watch/Warning Events**

### **Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings**

A Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning is issued whenever extremely dry fuels are forecast to combine with critical weather parameters to create an atmosphere that could contribute to extensive wildfires with the potential to threaten life and property. Any watch or warning should be coordinated with the affected land management agency for the zone(s) where the watch or warning is being considered or has been issued.

A Red Flag warning may also be requested by a land management agency, if they feel that due to extreme dryness in the forest, that wildfires are likely. Otherwise, if conditions are expected to be close to or exceed red flag conditions, then an appropriate statement should be put into the Hazardous Weather Outlook (ARBHWOxxx and INDHWOIWX for far Southern Lower Michigan counties covered by Northern Indiana).

### **Fire Weather Watch Criteria**

Whenever a geographical area has been dry for a week or two (or for a shorter period if before spring green-up or after fall color), the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) is high to extreme and critical weather conditions are expected then a Fire Weather Watch should be considered. Before issuing a Fire Weather Watch, coordinate your concerns with the pertinent land management agencies. Consider a watch, whenever the above conditions will combine with these forecast weather parameters within the next 24 to 48 hours are:

1. Sustained wind averaging  $\geq 15$  mph (20 ft RAWs winds) or  $\geq 20$  mph (10m ASOS winds)
2. Relative humidity  $\leq 25$  percent
3. Temperature  $\geq 75$  degrees.

(Frequent wind gusts reaching the above wind criteria may be used in place of sustained winds at WFO's APX and GRR. This is to increase flexibility and provide additional support when needed to National Forest lands; and to account for differences in land use and fuel types that may be more sensitive to potential wildfire spread across portions of Northern and Western Lower Michigan.)

### **Red Flag Warning Criteria**

A Red Flag Warning will be issued when the Fire Weather Forecaster has a high degree of confidence that all three critical weather conditions, listed below, will occur within 24 hours.

1. Sustained wind averaging  $\geq 15$  mph (20 ft RAWs winds) or  $\geq 20$  mph (10m ASOS winds)
2. Relative humidity  $\leq 25$  percent and
3. Temperature  $\geq 75$  degrees.

(Frequent wind gusts reaching the above wind criteria may be used in place of sustained winds at WFO's APX and GRR. This is to increase flexibility and provide additional support when needed to National Forest lands; and to account for differences in land use and fuel types that may be more sensitive to potential wildfire spread across portions of Northern and Western Lower Michigan.)

The fire weather watch or red flag warning can be issued on a county by county basis. The land management agencies and the NWS offices will discuss the area that will be contained within the urgent fire weather message.

### **Issuing a Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch**

Call the affected land management agency for the zone where the watch or warning was issued to inform them of the warning and to coordinate what information is to be included in any public statement.

1. Issue the Red Flag Warning as ARBRFWxxx or INDRFWIWX (Northern Indiana).
2. The warning will include the geographic area, duration of the event and key weather parameters.
3. Headline in the daily Fire Weather Forecast (ARBRFWxxx or INDRFWIWX).
4. Subsequent Red Flag Warning messages or routine weather forecasts will carry the warning or watch headline until it is canceled.

### **Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning Cancellation/Expiration**

1. Call Land Management officials.
2. Issue the ARBRFWxxx or INDRFWIWX to cancel the watch or warning.
3. Headline the cancellation in the daily Fire Weather Forecast.

### **Marginal Events**

When conditions are expected to approach Red Flag Warning conditions, a coordination call should take place between the NWS and the various land management agencies. This coordination call will determine whether a Red Flag Warning is required, or whether notification to raise the awareness of the elevated fire danger is desired. The notification includes web stories on NWS web pages, message notification to Emergency Managers and media, mention in the Hazardous Weather Outlook, and Social Media.

### **Verification**

Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings will be verified based on synoptic events. Verification of Red Flag events will be tracked for all fire weather zones. The criteria are as stated previously.

### **Webinars**

Webinars will be provided to the land management agencies as requested prior to a Red Flag event. The webinars will be conducted similar to the weekly webinars as listed above. The content will include important, yet simple information to help the land management agencies make decisions pertaining to the potential Red Flag event.

## **Non-routine services**

The National Weather Service will assist any Federal or State agency in training purposes. Typically, the National Weather Service has served as instructors for the weather portions of the S-290 and S-190 hosted by the USFS or DNR. On different occasions, the National Weather Service has also agreed to supply training/instruction support for state and federal agencies in more general purposes, such as seasonal outlooks during late winter staff meetings or regional gatherings. This type of service will continue in the future.

## **Wildland Fire Agency Responsibilities**

The agency responsibility will be as noted in the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services, between federal and state user agencies and the National Weather Service. This has been appended.

## **Effective Date of the AOP**

The beginning and ending dates of the fire weather season are determined by federal and state agencies in coordination with the National Weather Service Fire Weather Program Leader at the respective weather forecast office. These dates are a function of the first or last snow and by the state of vegetation. Typically the fire weather season for Lower Michigan extends from mid-March through mid-November.



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## **Appendix A -Spot Forecast instructions**

### **Instructions for Submitting a Spot Forecast request via the internet - user agency:**

- From the respective NWS Homepage click on Fire Weather under Forecasts.
- Click on the county where the fire or burn is or will take place.
- Click on submit a new spot request
- Enter data into the request form (red means a mandatory entry)
- If automated experimental HYSPLIT images are requested, type in Hysplit and email address(es) into the remarks section
- Click submit request at the bottom of the form. When the status reads complete (color in red on the map), then click on your request, to see the forecast.
- Check the status of your request from the Spot Forecast page.
- If there is a question on about the forecast from the forecaster, the Spot will be purple. Click on the spot and look at the question from the forecaster.
- If you have feedback on the forecast, at the bottom of the completed forecast is a space to type in feedback, then push the button <Send Feedback>.

### **Instructions for completing a Spot Forecast request via the Internet - NWS:**

- When a request for a Spot Forecast is submitted, an alarm will be posted to AWIPS.
- Go to the Spot Forecast page, and click on the latest Spot Forecast request.
- Near the bottom of the page, click on Initialize forecast.
- Click initialize
- Click on edit forecast
- Edit the forecast and save edits
- Near the bottom, click on send forecast
- The question is posted, do you want to send the forecast?, click send forecast.
- After about 5 minutes, the product FWSXXX will automatically get into AWIPS.

### **Instructions for completing a Spot Forecast request via the Phone - NWS:**

- After receiving the Spot request on the phone, go to the respective office fire page (either through the office intranet or the internet home page), and click on Submit a New Spot Forecast Request
- Click on submit a new request
- Enter data into the request form (red means mandatory entry)
- Click submit request at the bottom of the form
- When the request is submitted, an alarm will be posted to AWIPS
- Go to the Spot Forecast page, and click on the latest Spot Forecast request.
- Near the bottom of the page, click on Initialize forecast.
- On the next page, Click initialize
- Click on edit forecast
- Edit the forecast and save edits
- Near the bottom click on send forecast
- The question is posted, “do you want to send the forecast?” Click send forecast
- After about 5 to 10 minutes the product FWSXXX will be sent from the webpage server into AWIPS. If your system doesn’t already print out the system automatically, then print out the forecast and Fax or call the requesting agency with the forecast

## **Appendix B - Examples of Fire Weather Products**

### **Fire Weather Planning Forecast (morning) – ARBFWFxxx (The afternoon format is similar)-**

FNUS5i KNNN DDHHMM

FWFNNN

FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CITY STATE

TIME-DATE

...HEADLINE...

.DISCUSSION...

SSZXXX-XXX>XXX-DDHHMM-

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTORS

TIME-DATE

...RED FLAG WARNING/FIRE WEATHER WATCH HEADLINE...

.TODAY...

SKY/WEATHER.....

MAX TEMPERATURE.....

24 HR TREND.....

MIN HUMIDITY.....

24 HR TREND.....

WIND.(20 FT/10-MIN AVG)...

HAINES INDEX...

MIXING HEIGHT...

TRANSPORT WINDS.(MPH)...

VENTILATION INDEX...

.TONIGHT...

SKY/WEATHER.....

MIN TEMPERATURE.....

24 HR TREND.....

MAX HUMIDITY.....

24 HR TREND.....

WIND.(20 FT/10-min avg)...

HAINES INDEX...

MIXING HEIGHT...

TRANSPORT WINDS.(MPH)...

VENTILATION INDEX...

.TOMORROW...

SKY/WEATHER.....

MAX TEMPERATURE.....

MIN HUMIDITY.....

WIND.( 20 FT/10-min avg)....

HAINES INDEX...

MIXING HEIGHT...

TRANSPORT WINDS.(MPH)...

VENTILATION INDEX...

\$\$

.FORECAST FOR DAYS 3 THROUGH 7...

.DAY3...

.DAY4...

.DAY5...

.DAY6...

.DAY7...

## Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning (RFW).

Single Segment Fire Weather Watch (Red Flag Warning is similar except headline in the body of the product would say "RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT" and there would be different coding at the top.)

WWUS83 Kxxx 012130  
RFWxxx  
URGENT - FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Office MI  
330 PM EDT WED MAY 1 2011

MIZXXX-XXX-021800-  
/O.NEW.KXXX.FW.A.0005.110502T1800Z-110503T0200Z/  
COUNTY1-COUNTY2-COUNTY3-COUNTY4-COUNTY5  
330 PM EDT WED MAY 1 2011

...FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND THURSDAY EVENING...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN XXXXXX HAS ISSUED A FIRE WEATHER WATCH...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

\* WINDS...SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO 20 MPH WITH FREQUENT GUSTS TO 30 MPH THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

\* RELATIVE HUMIDITY...HUMIDITIES WILL BOTTOM OUT IN THE 15 TO 20 PERCENT RANGE LATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON. HUMIDITIES WILL RECOVER QUICKLY AFTER 9 PM.

\* TEMPERATURES...TEMPERATURES WILL WARM INTO THE 83-88 DEGREE RANGE BY LATE AFTERNOON ON THURSDAY.

\* IMPACTS...BURN RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BURN RESTRICTIONS...VISIT THE MICHIGAN DNR WEBSITE AT [WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BURNPERMIT](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BURNPERMIT) OR CALL 866-922-2876.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A FIRE WEATHER WATCH MEANS THAT CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE FORECAST TO OCCUR. LISTEN FOR LATER FORECASTS AND POSSIBLE RED FLAG WARNINGS.

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Multiple Segment Fire Weather Watch (Red Flag Warning is similar except headline in the body of the product would say "RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT" and there would be different coding at the top.)

WWUS83 Kxxx 012130  
RFWxxx  
URGENT - FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Office MI  
330 PM EDT WED MAY 1 2011

MIZXXX-XXX-021800-  
/O.NEW.KXXX.FW.A.0005.110502T1800Z-110503T0200Z/  
COUNTY1-COUNTY2-COUNTY3-COUNTY4-COUNTY5  
330 PM EDT WED MAY 1 2011

...FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT THROUGH THURSDAY AFTERNOON...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN XXXXXX HAS ISSUED A FIRE WEATHER WATCH...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

\* WINDS...SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO 20 MPH WITH FREQUENT GUSTS TO 30 MPH THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

\* RELATIVE HUMIDITY...HUMIDITIES WILL BOTTOM OUT IN THE 15 TO 20 PERCENT RANGE LATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON. HUMIDITIES WILL RECOVER QUICKLY AFTER 9 PM.

\* TEMPERATURES...TEMPERATURES WILL WARM INTO THE 83-88 DEGREE RANGE BY LATE AFTERNOON ON THURSDAY.

\* IMPACTS...BURN RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BURN RESTRICTIONS...VISIT THE MICHIGAN DNR WEBSITE AT WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BURNPERMIT OR CALL 866-922-2876.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A FIRE WEATHER WATCH MEANS THAT CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE FORECAST TO OCCUR. LISTEN FOR LATER FORECASTS AND POSSIBLE RED FLAG WARNINGS.

\$\$

MIZXXX-XXX-021800-  
/O.NEW.KXXX.FW.A.0005.110502T1800Z-110503T0200Z/  
COUNTY6-COUNTY7-COUNTY8-COUNTY9-COUNTY10  
330 PM EDT WED MAY 1 2011

...FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND THURSDAY EVENING...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN XXXXXX HAS ISSUED A FIRE WEATHER WATCH...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

\* WINDS...SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO 20 MPH WITH FREQUENT GUSTS TO 30 MPH THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

\* RELATIVE HUMIDITY...HUMIDITIES WILL BOTTOM OUT IN THE 15 TO 20 PERCENT RANGE LATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON. HUMIDITIES WILL RECOVER QUICKLY AFTER 9 PM.

\* TEMPERATURES...TEMPERATURES WILL WARM INTO THE 83-88 DEGREE RANGE BY LATE AFTERNOON ON THURSDAY.

\* IMPACTS...BURN RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BURN RESTRICTIONS...VISIT THE MICHIGAN DNR WEBSITE AT WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BURNPERMIT OR CALL 866-922-2876.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A FIRE WEATHER WATCH MEANS THAT CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE FORECAST TO OCCUR. LISTEN FOR LATER FORECASTS AND POSSIBLE RED FLAG WARNINGS.

&&

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Single Segment Red Flag Warning with Overview Section (Fire Weather Watch is similar except headline in the body of the product would say "FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT" and there would be different coding at the top.)

WWUS83 Kxxx 012130  
RFXxxx  
URGENT - FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Office MI  
1030 AM EDT THU MAY 2 2011

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND THURSDAY EVENING...

.AN AREA OF LOW PRESSURE WILL APPROACH THE AREA TODAY. VERY WARM AIR IS EXPECTED TO MOVE IN AHEAD OF THIS FRONT AS SOUTHERLY WINDS WILL BECOME GUSTY. THE LACK OF RECENT RAINFALL ACROSS THE AREA WILL ALLOW FOR VERY DRY CONDITIONS TO CONTINUE INTO THIS EVENING. CONDITIONS WILL IMPROVE LATE THIS EVENING AND OVERNIGHT TONIGHT AS SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS ARE EXPECTED TO MOVE IN WITH THE FRONT AT THAT TIME.

MIZXXX-XXX-030200-  
/O.NEW.KXXX.FW.W.0005.110502T1800Z-110503T0200Z/  
COUNTY1-COUNTY2-COUNTY3-COUNTY4-COUNTY5  
1030 AM EDT THU MAY 2 2011

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND THURSDAY EVENING...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN XXXXXX HAS ISSUED A RED FLAG WARNING...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

\* WINDS...SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO 20 MPH WITH FREQUENT GUSTS TO 30 MPH THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

\* RELATIVE HUMIDITY...HUMIDITIES WILL BOTTOM OUT IN THE 15 TO 20 PERCENT RANGE LATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON. HUMIDITIES WILL RECOVER QUICKLY AFTER 9 PM.

\* TEMPERATURES...TEMPERATURES WILL WARM INTO THE 83-88 DEGREE RANGE BY LATE AFTERNOON ON THURSDAY.

\* IMPACTS...BURN RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BURN RESTRICTIONS...VISIT THE MICHIGAN DNR WEBSITE AT [WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BURNPERMIT](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BURNPERMIT) OR CALL 866-922-2876.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A FIRE WEATHER WATCH MEANS THAT CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE FORECAST TO OCCUR. LISTEN FOR LATER FORECASTS AND POSSIBLE RED FLAG WARNINGS.

&&

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### Point Forecast - ARBFWMxxx:

FCST,202902,950323,13,7,21,85,1,1,NW,10,M,26,9,100,60,2,2,N

FCST,202010,950323,13,7,29,90,1,1,SW,12,M,34,14,90,60,2,2,N



## **Appendix C - Explanation of Fire Weather indices**

### **Haines Index (Low elevations):**

The Haines index is an Atmospheric severity Index used to determine fire severity due to the stability of the lower atmosphere, typically used for days when plume dominated fires are likely. The terms in the index are the lapse rate between 950mb and 850mb (F1) and the moisture availability at 850mb by calculating the dew point depression (F2). Once the lapse rate and dew point depressions have been calculated, look up the appropriate value for each term (A and B) and add the numbers together (A+B). The lowest the index will be is 2 and the highest is 6.

$$\text{Haines Index} = A + B$$

$$F1 = T950 - T850$$

$$F1 = 3 \text{ deg C or less then} \quad A = 1$$

$$F1 = 4-7 \text{ C then} \quad A = 2$$

$$F1 = 8 \text{ deg C or more then} \quad A = 3$$

$$F2 = T850 - Td850$$

$$F2 = 3 \text{ deg C or less then} \quad B = 1$$

$$F2 = 4-7 \text{ C then} \quad B = 2$$

$$F2 = 8 \text{ deg C or more then} \quad B = 3$$

### **Ventilation Index:**

This index is found by multiplying the mixing height (feet) with the transport wind speed (mph), then dividing by 100.

#### Example...

Mixing height = 14,000 feet

Transport wind = 15 mph

$$VI = 14,000 * 15 / 100 = 2100 \text{(no units)}$$

#### Example...

Mixing height = 5,000 feet

Transport wind = 10 mph

$$VI = 5,000 * 10 / 100 = 500 \text{(no units)}$$

#### VI scale...

Less than 130 = POOR dispersal

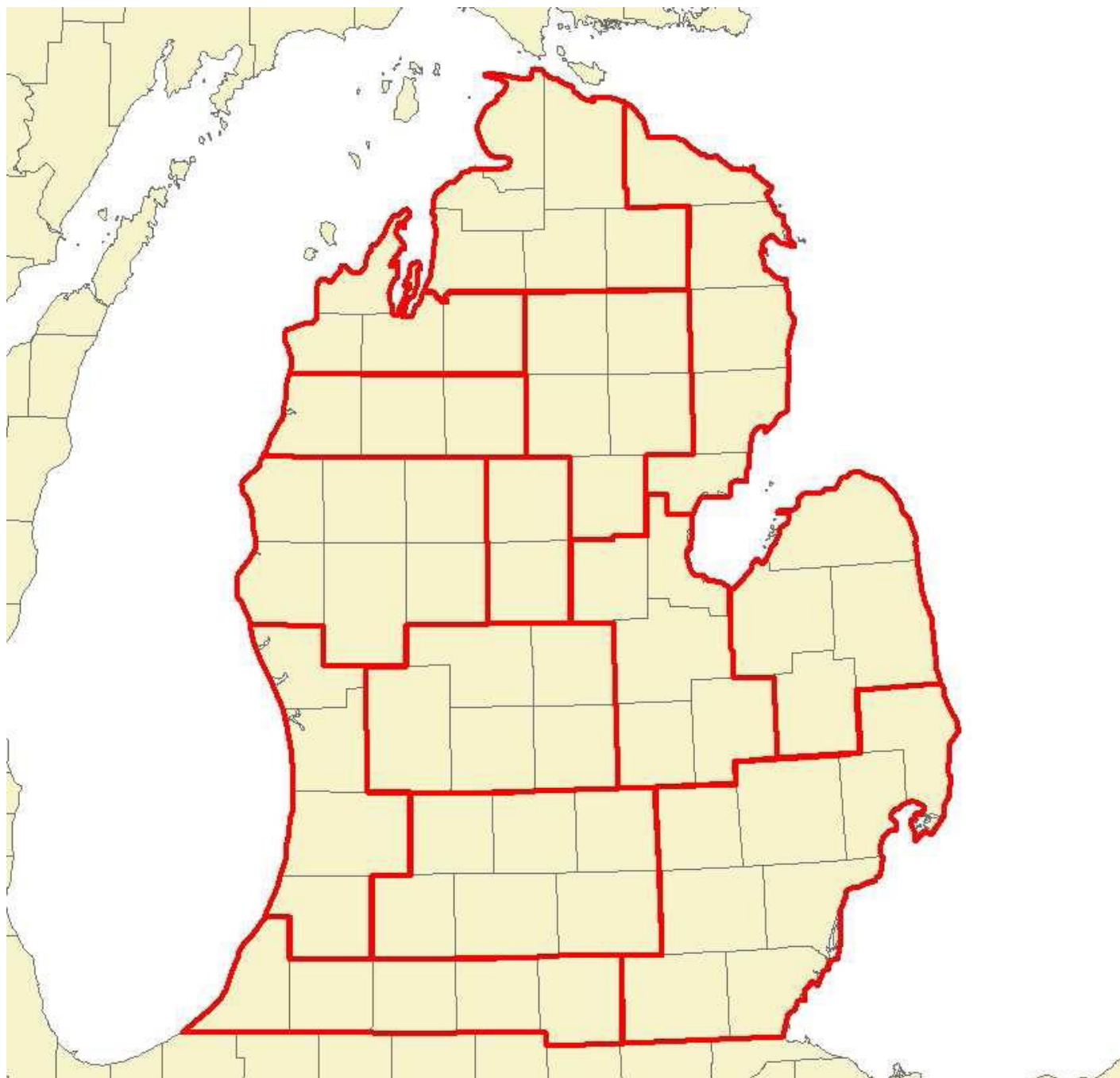
130 – 299 = FAIR dispersal

300 – 599 = GOOD dispersal

600 and greater = EXCELLENT dispersal

A ventilation index of zero implies no ability for the atmosphere to disperse smoke or pollutants, while a value of 600 or greater implies an excellent ability to disperse smoke or pollutants. The United States Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources has requested that when the VI is “fair”, that we include a number value along with the term.

## **Appendix D - Lower Michigan Fire Zone Groupings**



## Appendix E - Experimental Smoke Modeling Plumes

### How to request:

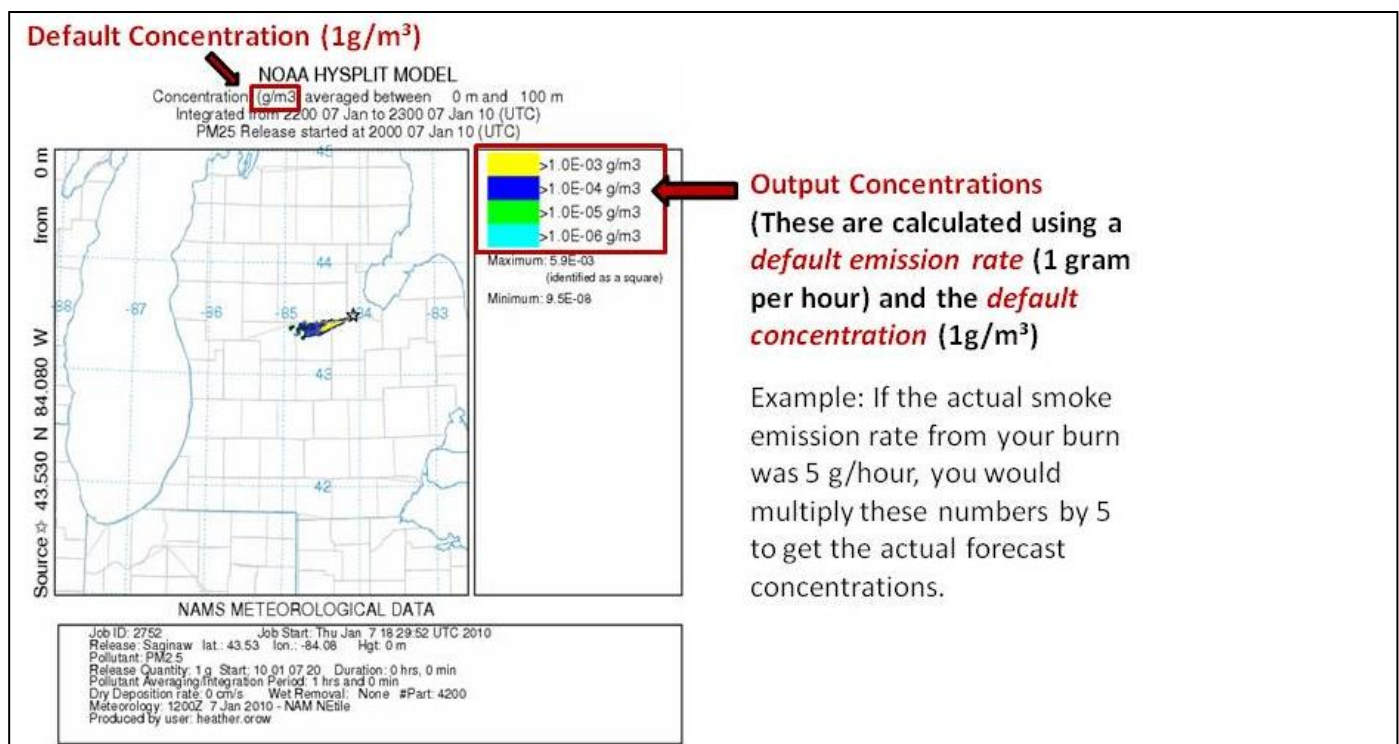
To request a HYSPLIT run for your prescribed burn,

1. Request HYSPLIT output from your local NWS office (by phone).
2. Provide the following information about the burn:
  - a. Lat/Lon (decimal degrees)
  - b. Size (in acres)
  - c. Ignition date and time
  - d. Duration of burn in hours (Must be at least 1 hour)
  - e. Contact phone number
  - f. Email address to send output files
  - g. Preferred format for output file(s). Files are available in KMZ (Google Earth), animated GIF, PDF, and PS (Postscript Plot)

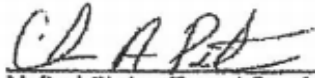
### How to interpret the results:

Plotted **output concentrations** (the output graphics) are calculated using a **default concentration** and a **default emission rate**. These two parameters tell the model how much smoke to release, and how fast to release it. The **default concentration** rate will always be 1 unit of mass per cubic meter (for example, 1 g/m<sup>3</sup>). The **default emission rate** will always be one mass unit per hour (for example, 1g/hour).

Since the output graphics use a default concentration and a default emission rate, the raw HYSPLIT smoke concentrations shown on the output graphics do not represent actual concentrations and cannot be used to estimate health impacts. If the **actual emission rate** of smoke per hour is known, you can perform a simple calculation to obtain actual concentrations:  
Actual concentrations = **actual emission rate** x **output concentrations**



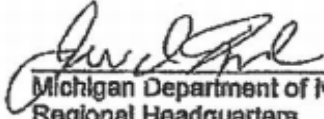
## 2014 Signature Page



United States Forest Service  
Huron-Manistee National Forest

3/27/14

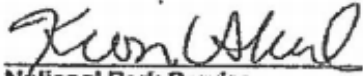
Date



Michigan Department of Natural Resources,  
Regional Headquarters

3/28/14

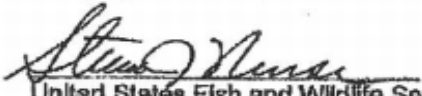
Date



National Park Service  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

3/31/14

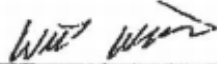
Date



United States Fish and Wildlife Service

4/2/14

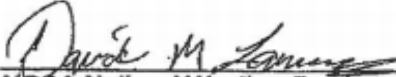
Date



Bureau of Indian Affairs

4/3/14

Date



NOAA National Weather Service  
Gaylord, MI (APX)

4/9/14

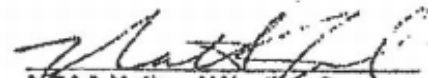
Date



NOAA National Weather Service  
Detroit/Pontiac, MI (DTX)

4/17/14

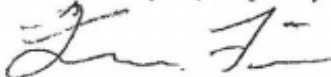
Date



NOAA National Weather Service  
Grand Rapids, MI (GRR)

3/26/14

Date



NOAA National Weather Service  
North Webster, IN (IWX)

4/10/14

Date